

ישיבת העתיד



YESHIVAT HE'ATID

Yeshivat He'Atid

Parent Handbook

התשע"ח / 2017-2018

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Welcome to Yeshivat He'Atid!

The administration, faculty, and staff are delighted that you have chosen to give your children the gift of Yeshivat He'Atid education. Please remember that we are partners in this educational process. As such, communication between home and school plays a critical role in helping your children achieve their maximum potential.

Mission and Philosophy

Our Mission

Yeshivat He'Atid is a yeshiva day school in Bergen County that aims to be a leader in re-envisioning the classroom to incorporate 21st century educational approaches. We are committed to excellence in Judaic and secular studies and strive to foster in our students a love of *Torah* and *Mitzvot*, a deep commitment to *Klal Yisrael* and *Medinat Yisrael*, and an understanding of the importance of *Derech Eretz* and *Chessed*. We recognize that each child learns differently; we utilize a blend of small group instruction, face-to-face learning with online learning and peer-led learning to provide high quality, differentiated education. Our goal is to educate our students to become active learners, analytical and independent thinkers, and problem solvers. We hope that Yeshivat He'Atid will serve as a model for 21st century Jewish education that is innovative, economically sustainable and can be replicated in other schools and communities.

Our educational objectives:

- Providing a high quality Judaic and secular education
- Fostering the individual strengths and interests of each student
- Helping our children grow in their dedication to *Middot* and *Derech Eretz* while learning in an environment dedicated to *Torah*, *Mitzvot*, *Klal Yisrael* and *Medinat Yisrael*
- Integrating Torah learning with secular studies
- Teaching towards fluency and proficiency in the Hebrew language
- Supporting and encouraging parental involvement in their children's education
- Promoting teachers who see themselves as lifetime learners, continuously working to grow and align with contemporary educational practices
- Measuring educational outcomes against individual and recognized standards

We recognize the importance of teaching to the whole child. Our curriculum will:

- Educate students to become active learners, analytical thinkers, and problem solvers
- Embrace and leverage technology-based learning alongside interactive classroom instruction
- Recognize the importance of inquiry and exploration in the pursuit of knowledge
- Develop each student's ability to think independently
- Prepare our students for success in the 21st century
- Encourage individuality and nurture each student's unique talents and skill-sets

We believe that the creation of Eretz Yisrael is one of the seminal events in Jewish history. Recognizing the significance of Medinat Yisrael and its national institutions, we seek to instill in our students an attachment to the State of Israel and its people as well as a sense of responsibility for their welfare.

Code of Conduct

Derech Eretz and proper middot are an integral part of Yeshiva education. We are proud of the respect and behavior displayed by our students. However, there may be an occasion when a child has difficulty adhering to school regulations. Most disciplinary concerns will be handled by faculty and administration. If necessary, the parents may be contacted for a cooperative resolution. Video games, cell phones, iPods, personal tablets, and other electronic devices may NOT be used at school without permission from a school administrator.

Communication

The School-Home Partnership

The ability to communicate openly and effectively is the cornerstone of all good relationships. This is especially true in terms of the school-family partnership. It is important that the school establish guidelines for developing an effective and reliable communication system. In order to support effective communication we offer the following guidelines:

Family to School

Please keep us informed. Everything that happens in the home affects your children. As a result, it is critical that we are informed of any unusual events which are taking place in the family. This includes both the happy and the sad – births or marriages of siblings, special *smachot*, illnesses at home, anticipated trips by parents, deaths in the family, family dynamics, etc. Properly informed teachers will be able to help your child with greater understanding. Please notify the administration and teachers by email or telephone of any significant event. Please be assured that all information of this type will be kept strictly confidential.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact your child's teacher first. While there are formal opportunities to discuss your child such as parent teacher conferences, we recognize that issues may arise at any time and we want you to feel comfortable to contact us whenever necessary. In order to ensure such discussions take place when a teacher can focus completely, we first ask that you send a note,

email or leave a message in the office for your child's teacher. The note should briefly state your concern and convenient times for a teacher to reach you. Teachers will return all non-emergency messages with 24-48 hours.

If you wish to further discuss the matter after talking to your child's teacher, please contact the administration. The administration will become involved only when the teacher and/or parent feels that the situation has not been satisfactorily resolved.

School to Family

Email sign-up: In order to receive all pertinent information, please keep us informed of any changes to email addresses. Please check your email account on a daily basis. Email is a primary method of communication.

Yeshivat He'Atid's weekly newsletter, He'Atid Achshav, is sent home via email to all families each week. In addition, the newsletter is posted on our website. The newsletter offers highlights of the many exciting activities that occurred and a glimpse of those to come. Please read the newsletter each week as important notices for the upcoming weeks will be posted.

Personal and Emergency Contact Information

Please inform us immediately of any changes to your personal and emergency contact information. It is critical that we always have the current information on hand. Students will only be permitted to call home with the approval of a teacher or administrator and by using the regular school phone system. Cell phones will not be allowed during the school day, including lunch and recess.

Report Cards/Anecdotal

The academic year is divided into 2 semesters. Report cards are issued at the conclusion of each marking period. Students in 1st grade and up will receive both General and Judaic studies report cards. Parents are urged to review and discuss these report cards with their children. Any specific issues or concerns should be addressed to your child's teacher.

Back to School Night

Back to school night is scheduled every fall for parent's to meet their child's teachers. Dates are listed on the school calendar. This event will be dedicated to teachers presenting an overview of the area of

study and the year's curriculum. Please note this is not a time for parents to discuss individual children or concerns.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will be held twice a year during the fall and spring. Please consult the school calendar for specific dates.

Policies and Procedures

Anti-Bullying Policy

Our school has zero tolerance for bullying. This is not limited to physical aggression, but includes verbal expression as well. We expect our students to treat each other with dignity and respect.

School Closings

The Yeshivat He'Atid school policy is to follow the lead of the Teaneck school district when it comes to school closings. If the Teaneck school district closes due to inclement weather, Yeshivat He'Atid will be closed as well; if Teaneck announces a delayed opening, we will do the same (barring a possible Friday scenario). School closings will be posted on the homepage of our website. In addition, an email will be sent out through Parent Locker. As always, our goal remains to adhere as closely as possible to our school schedule and provide educational services for your children. We understand the impact a school closing or delayed opening may have on our families and aspire to stay open as often as possible. We fully recognize that decisions of this sort require advance notice. The administration will do its best to inform our parents in a timely and convenient way. Our goal is to insure a safe and responsible delivery of each child.

Dress Code

Please dress your child in comfortable clothing for the school day. Children should not be afraid to get dirty or messy. We will be going outdoors daily, barring severely inclement weather. Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for all seasons, specifically in the winter time - hats, gloves/mittens, jackets, boots and scarves. **Please clearly label your child's name on all items sent to school.**

Early Childhood

Children in Early Childhood may wear any clothing and color, except for tank tops. Girls may wear pants and shorts. Boys must wear tzizit and kipa or a baseball hat.

Lower Grades 1-4

- TOPS-Boys and girls may wear solid tops in blue, white or pink.
- Girls may wear jumpers and dresses as long as it's within the color scheme.
- BOTTOMS-Boys and girls may wear blue, khaki or black.
- Skirts must reach the knee and sleeves may not be cap sleeves.
- Boys must wear collared shirts.
- Boys may only wear chino pants. Sweatpants and jeans are not permitted.
- Boys must wear tzizit and kipa every day.
- Any solid colored sweatshirts may be worn.
- Please ensure that there are no patterns, big logos or writing on any of the shirts or sweatshirts.
- Flip-flops, sandals and crocs may not be worn. Only closed toe shoes are acceptable.
- Your children will be having gym twice a week. Please ensure that they wear sneakers on those days. A student who isn't wearing sneakers will not be able to participate in gym.

Middle School - Grades 5-6

- TOPS-Boys and girls may wear ANY solid colored tops.
- Girls may wear jumpers and dresses as long as it's within the color scheme.
- BOTTOMS-Boys and girls may wear blue, khaki or black.
- Skirts must reach the knee and sleeves may not be cap sleeves.
- Boys must wear collared shirts.
- Boys must wear tzizit and kipa every day.
- Any solid colored sweatshirts may be worn.
- Please ensure that there are no patterns, big logos or writing on any of the shirts or sweatshirts.
- Flip-flops, sandals and crocs may not be worn. Only closed toe shoes are acceptable.
- Your children will be having gym four times a week. Please ensure that they wear sneakers on gym days. A student who isn't wearing sneakers will not be able to participate in gym.

At Yeshivat He'Atid, we want to instill a feeling of unity in our school and adhering to the dress code is a positive and easy way to create that feeling each day. Please partner with us by reviewing your child's readiness for school on a daily basis and relaying to your children the importance of following this policy.

If we see a child is not adhering to the dress code, we will remind him/her about the school's policy. If the child does not adhere to the policy a second time, a note will go home to the parents. If it occurs a third time, a parent will be asked to come to school that day with a change of clothing.

As we all know, the best way to teach a child is by example. We encourage our parents to respect these policies when coming to visit our school.

School Hours

Students may arrive on the school grounds beginning at 8:20 a.m. Supervision will not begin before this time and children will not be allowed inside the building.

Arrival

When entering the school, please enter our campus from the Amsterdam Avenue entrance. Please do not make a left turn into the lot. We ask that you lineup and come from Palisades Avenue and make a right turn into our Amsterdam Avenue entrance. Cars lining up to make a left into the driveway will be asked to pass by and turn around to get on the end of the line. There are no left turns into or out of the driveway. Staff will be waiting outside the entrance to guide children into the building **from 8:20-8:35.**

When arriving at school, please form a carpool line looping around the perimeter of the parking lot and proceed to drop off your child at the rear door. Please DO NOT exit your car on the carpool line. Please park your car first if you need to enter the building.



You must turn right out of the parking lot when exiting Yeshivat He'Atid during arrival and dismissal times.

Late Arrivals

Punctuality is an integral component of the educational process as well as an important behavior we hope to instill in our students. A child who is late disrupts an entire class and misses part of the daily work. **Students arriving after 8:45 a.m. must be brought by a parent to the front office to be signed in. We ask that you do not escort your child to the classroom. Students that arrive late must receive an admittance slip to be permitted into class.**

Dismissal

Please enter the school parking lot in the same manner as arrivals (with the exception of preschool carpools). Ensure that your carpool number is in clear view on your front windshield. Carpools will be loaded in the order they arrive. Please do not try to pass any cars on the carpool line and please adhere to the directions of the school personnel who are handling carpool.

For carpools consisting only of Pre-K and K students: You may enter from the Palisade Avenue entrance only between 3:00pm and 3:15pm. The children will begin being sent to carpools between 3:10pm and 3:15pm.

For carpools containing students from 1st-5th: You may enter from the Amsterdam Avenue entrance only starting at 3:20pm. The children will begin being sent to carpools at 3:25pm.

Middle School Carpool: You may enter from the Amsterdam Avenue entrance only starting at 4:20pm. The children will begin being sent to carpools at 4:30pm.

Leaving Early

If your child will be picked up early, you must inform the school in writing of your alternative plans. All changes in dismissal must be emailed to transportation@yeshivatheatid **no later than 2:00 p.m.** or noon on a short day. A parent or designee must come to the school office and sign the student out. Do not go directly to your child's classroom. Students will not be released under any other circumstance. In the case of an emergency, children will only be released into the care of those who are pre-authorized by being listed on the Authorization for Dismissal form filled out at the beginning of the year.

Bus Transportation

Time on the bus is an extension of the school day. *Derech Eretz* and student safety is extremely important. We ask parents to speak with their child(ren) about the following guidelines:

1. Wait quietly without disturbing a neighbor or damaging any property
2. Respect the authority of the bus driver
3. Enter and leave the bus properly
4. All children must be wearing a seatbelt while the bus is in motion
5. Remain seated during the entire ride until the bus reaches your stop
6. Keep hands, head, and arms inside the bus

No student will be permitted on any bus other than his/her assigned bus.

If your child left an item on the bus, please contact the bus company directly:

D & M Tours (973) 977-2001

Rainbow Transportation (201) 374-1222

Please contact Ora Kornbluth with any bus issues or concerns.

Attendance

Regular attendance in school is essential for a student's progress. To help us more effectively keep track of student illnesses and absences, we ask that you call the school nurse, ext 301 when you have decided to keep your child home from school. Please let us know the nature of your child's symptoms as well. Parents must notify the school when students are diagnosed with contagious diseases such as chicken pox, shigella, Fifth Disease, strep, scarlet fever, pink eye, lice, fever or stomach virus. In addition, if your child does not feel well in the morning, please do NOT send your child to school with instructions to call home. Our concern is for the health of all students.

We follow the code of attendance mandated by the State of New Jersey that a student who exceeds twenty days absence risks being denied academic credit for the year. Any student absent for 5 or more consecutive school days requires a doctor's note prior to returning to school.

The school requests that parents schedule vacations during school holidays. If circumstances make it necessary that the family takes vacation during the school session, we ask that you please contact the school in advance. The student is responsible for assignments, homework and missed assessments.

Homework

Homework is an extension of class work. The purpose is to reinforce what the children have learned or to prepare for a future lesson or project.

- Assigned homework should be completed by the child.
- Students should check the website daily for homework, tests and other assignments.
- There will be reading each night in Hebrew and English. This is an expectation every night that is not part of homework. Math will also be given on a daily basis.

Grades 1-3

General Studies and Judaic Studies teachers will send a homework log each week. Each child will have a separate homework folder, one for GS and one for JS. Judaic Studies teachers will give homework Tuesdays and Thursdays. General Studies teachers will give homework Mondays and Wednesdays. Everyone will give reading homework over the weekend.

Grade 4-6

General Studies and Judaic Studies teachers will give a homework planner. Both General and Judaic Studies teachers will give homework every night. Long term assignments and projects can be given as homework. Both GS and JS teachers will give reading homework over the weekend.

If you find that your child has difficulty with homework please discuss with your child's teacher. Our teachers are eager to work with you to help your child succeed.

Language/OT screenings

Over the course of the year, we will have the opportunity to provide OT and Language screenings for children that might benefit from this service. These screenings are not meant to make a diagnosis but rather a tool to provide us with more information about your child's needs.

We will notify you in advance of these screenings. If you choose not to have your child screened you will need to send us a written letter opting out. If we do not receive written documentation, the screening will be administered.

Birthday Parties

Students in grades 1-6 are not permitted to leave class to celebrate the birthday party of a sibling or relative in Early Childhood. Having students leave in the middle of class is disruptive to that student as well as those around him/her.

Care of School Property

Our school should be considered a "home away from home" for our staff and our students. Anyone in our building should treat the building, supplies and school property with respect and care.

School Supplies

Generic lists of school supplies are posted on the website during the summer. Please label all supplies with your child's name. Teachers may request additional specific supplies. Students will have approximately two (2) weeks to obtain the required supplies.

Children are responsible for books issued to them and are expected to take proper care of them. Lost books must be replaced and you will be notified of the cost.

Safety & Security

Safety and security of students is one of our top priorities. Our school building is equipped with video surveillance and intercoms. We have an ongoing relationship with the Teaneck Police Department to help ensure security at school.

Yeshivat He'Atid has a full time security agent on premises during all school hours. If you see anything unusual or suspicious, please let the security agent know right away.

A variety of drills will take place throughout the school year to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. They include:

- Fire drills
- Lock down drills
- Evacuation drills

Lost & Found:

Please label all articles of clothing and other items to prevent loss of clothing. Any lost items are brought to a box near the office; please regularly check the box and retrieve your missing item. Please call the bus company directly for misplaced items left on the bus.

Food and Health

Food

All food brought into Yeshivat He'Atid must be certified kosher by a reliable organization such as OU, OK, Chof K or Star K. Only products from supervised, kosher establishments may be brought in. No home baked items are allowed. The RCBC (Rabbinical Council of Bergen County) recognizes the following Kashruth symbols of rabbinical supervision acceptable:



The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations



“Star-K” Kosher Certification



“Kof-K” Kosher Supervision



The Organized Kashruth Laboratories



Upper Midwest Kashruth
Massachusetts



Vaad Harabonim (Vaad Hakashrus) of

Please do not assume that a “K” is acceptable.

Nut Free Environment

Please become acquainted with our policy regarding nuts and other snacks brought into school. Students and teachers may not bring in nuts or products containing nuts to school for their own consumption or to share with the class. Daily snacks cannot contain peanuts, tree nuts (almonds, pecans, walnuts, cashews, pistachios, etc.) or their oils. Products labeled as “may contain nuts” or “produced in a facility that processes nuts” are **not** acceptable. When sending in items for a class party or other celebrations, please check all labels to ensure that the products are not produced on machinery that also processes nuts. There are many brands that offer alternatives. Please check the packaging.

The nut free status of our school, however, can never be assumed. We ask that all parents continue to educate their children about this policy and discourage them from sharing snacks with others. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and ask for your assistance in monitoring the products brought into our school building. If you ever have any questions concerning a food product, please feel free to consult our nurse.

Lunch

The lunch program is a voluntary program. For more information about the lunch program, please contact the business office.

Home lunch students: Please pack a healthy, wholesome lunch for your child including a drink. Please note: No lunches will be heated and hot water is not provided for soups or cereals.

Parve lunches may be sent every day.

Meat days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may send in a meat or pareve lunch on these days. Dairy lunches are not permitted on these days. Meat lunches may not be sent in on dairy days, which are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Please discuss with your children that taking lunch from children who are on the lunch program is not permitted.

Snacks

Grades 1 - 6

Parents are asked to send in two healthy and wholesome snacks, one for the morning and one for afternoon. The following are suggested nutritional snacks: Fruits-fresh, dried or canned (not in heavy syrup), vegetables, plain popcorn, crackers, pita or rice cakes, cheese (low fat, skim, string), low fat pretzels, non-sweetened cereal, low fat pudding, low fat yogurt.

Please remind your children that if they are bringing dairy snacks in on meat days, they must have the snack during the morning break.

Pre-K and Kindergarten- It is not necessary to send in any snacks. Yeshivat He'Atid provides all snacks for the Early Childhood students.

Health

Health and Emergency Forms

Emergency contact information was submitted during the online enrollment process via TADS. If contact information changes at all during the school year, please provide us with updated information immediately.

Physical exam & record of immunization forms must be filled out and signed by the child's physician and submitted prior to the first day of school. Without this information, your child will not be allowed into school.

Medication in School

Ideally, all medications should be given at home. Please ask your physician to structure the time schedule so medications can be given before and after school hours. **Students may not take medications in school on their own. The Nurse is the only person permitted to administer any medications.**

Any medication that must be given during the school day, both prescription and over the counter, must follow the NJ Department of Children & Families guidelines. The administration of medication to children in school is prohibited unless NJ state requirements are met; please contact our nurse for specific details.

When to Keep Your Child Home From School

If a child has had a fever within the previous 24 hours, s/he should remain at home. If a streptococcus infection (Strep Throat) is diagnosed, the child must remain home until 24 hours of antibiotic therapy has been completed. Only then may the child return to school. In cases of Strep Throat, Conjunctivitis, Chicken Pox, Flu, Pneumonia, Lice, Fifth Disease, or other contagious conditions, Department of Health regulations require that the nurse's office be informed.

Our goal is to maintain a healthy environment for all of our students and faculty. Please do keep your child at home when:

1. He/she has a fever of 100°F or higher. A child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
2. He/she has been vomiting at night. Please do not send him/her to school the next day.
3. He/she has evidence of pink eye. There must be no sign of discharge or significant redness before returning to school.

Vaccinations

Yeshivat He'Atid requires every student to show proof of immunization that complies with the New Jersey Department of Health Immunization Requirements - <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/imm.shtml>. For questions/concerns, please speak to the school nurse.

Allergies

Parents of students with allergies/asthma must complete the separate form, "Allergy Action Plan" and/or "Asthma Action Plan" and return it to the nurse's office prior to the start of school. Parents must provide the nurse with their child's appropriate medication(s) and doctor's instructions for treatment.

If Children Fall Ill During the Day

Students who feel ill in school may go to the nurse's office. After completing a screening exam, the nurse may call the parents to pick up the child from school. Children must be fever free (a fever of 100 or above) for twenty-four hours before returning to school.

Lice Information & Policy

Yeshivat He'Atid has a no-nit policy and any child who has nits will be sent home for proper treatment. To help achieve this goal, Yeshivat He'Atid maintains a proactive

approach by having experienced lice checkers examine students. All students are checked for lice several times a year: in September, after winter and Passover breaks. Parents are asked to partner with the school in implementing the lice policy. Parents should be vigilant and check their children on a regular basis for the presence of lice. It is recommended that you do this once a week. Check your children daily if you receive notice that the presence of lice was found in a classmate, friend, carpool partner, or other child with whom your children may have regular contact. It is the responsibility of the parents of affected child/ren to inform any carpool members, previous sleepover guests, or playmates of the fact that lice/nits has been discovered. To combat the spread of lice, strongly encourage your children to wear long hair in ponytails, buns, pigtails or braids. Encourage your children not to share hats, brushes, or clothing. If a child has traveled outside the United States, the child's parent is responsible to inform the nurse and the child's teachers, so that the child is brought to the nurse and checked for lice prior to attending classes.

If a student is found to have nits/lice, the following procedure will be followed:

- 1) He/she will be removed from class.
- 2) Parents will be notified and the student will be sent home immediately.
- 3) Every student in the child's class will be checked. A note will be sent home to the parents of students in the affected class alerting them of the presence of nits/lice.
- 4) The school nurse will check all siblings of the affected student (Yeshivat He'Atid students).
- 5) Information on lice will be given to the parents when the student is picked up.
- 6) The parents are expected to contact their pediatrician or a professional lice checker for the most effective ways to remove lice and nits.
- 7) Once a student is sent home with lice and/or nits, the student will not be permitted back into class unless the school nurse determines the student to be lice and nit free.
- 8) **Upon return to school, the student must be brought directly by the parent or responsible guardian to the school's nurse's office.** The nurse will then check the student for the presence of lice and nits. He/she will be rechecked 10 days later by the school nurse and if found to be free of lice and nits, there will be no further follow-up unless deemed necessary by the nurse.

Conjunctivitis Information & Policy

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) is a highly contagious condition most common among children from toddler to third grade. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms of conjunctivitis

such as redness, discharge, pain or itching, please do not send him/her to school. A child determined to have any of the above symptoms will be sent home immediately. The child will be readmitted to school only after 24-48 hours of antibiotic therapy or the nurse receives a note from the child's physician stating that the child's condition is not contagious.

Reports of Child Abuse and/or Neglect

Yeshivat He'Atid is required to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect brought to our attention. Pursuant to the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services regulations N.J.A.C 6A:16-10.1 and 10.2, all school personnel must immediately report to the Department of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) incidents of child abuse and neglect where there is reasonable cause to believe child abuse or neglect has occurred. The suspicion of child abuse and/or neglect may be based on complaints of the child or on the direct observations of the employee over a period of time or both. Failure of the school to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect is a violation of New Jersey state law.

